

REMARKS

A. Background

Claims 1-15 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. Claims 1-3, 5-11, and 13-15 were rejected as being anticipated and/or obvious over cited prior art. Claims 4 and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By this response applicant has amended claims 1 and 9 and cancelled claims 2-8 and 10-15. As such, claims 1 and 9 are presented for the Examiner's consideration in light of the following remarks.

B. Proposed Amendments

Applicant has herein amended claims 1 and 9 to incorporate limitations from claims 4 and 12, respectively. As such, applicant submits that the amendments to claims 1 and 9 do not introduce new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

C. Rejection on the Merits

Claims 4 and 12 depended from claims 1 and 9, respectively. Page 7 of the Office Action states that claims 4 and 12 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant has herein amended claims 1 and 9 to incorporate limitations from claims 4 and 12, respectively. As such, applicant submits that claims 1 and 9 are now in condition for allowance for the same reason that claims 4 and 12 were considered to be allowable in the Office Action. The remaining claims 2-8 and 10-15 have been cancelled herein and thus the rejections relative thereto are now moot. No other objections or rejections are set forth in the Office Action.

D. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 9 as amended and presented herein.

In the event there remains any impediment to allowance of the claims which could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Dated this 22nd day of May 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dana L. Tangren', with a stylized flourish at the end.

DANA L. TANGREN
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,246
Customer No. 022913
Telephone No. 801.533.9800

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